

**STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)	
OF MAINE COAST NORDIC, INC. FOR RENEWAL)	FINDINGS OF FACT,
OF AN AQUACULTURE LEASE LOCATED WEST)	CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND
OF CUTLER PENINSULA, CUTLER, WASHINGTON)	DECISION
COUNTY, MAINE)	

On July 27, 2001, Maine Coast Nordic, Inc., made application for renewal of an aquaculture lease issued to them on March 13, 1992. The application requested a ten-year renewal to March 12, 2012 of a 10-acre pen culture lease located west of Cutler Peninsula, Cutler, Washington County, Maine.

Notice of the application for lease renewal was published in the April 2, 2002 issue of Commercial Fisheries News and the March 20, 2002 and April 3, 2002 issues of the Machias Valley News Observer. Members of the public, riparians and interested persons were given to April 19, 2002 to request a hearing on the application for lease renewal. No requests for a hearing on this application were received by the Department during the comment period that ended April 19, 2002, or at any time subsequent to the date of this decision.

Applications for aquaculture lease renewals are governed by 12 M.R.S.A. §6072(12) and Chapter 2.45 of the Department's rules, which provide that an aquaculture lease may be renewed unless the lessee has not complied with the original lease agreement during its term, substantially no aquaculture or research has been conducted, the Commissioner finds that it is not in the best interest of the state to renew the lease considering conflict with other new or existing uses of the area which the Commissioner determines to be a higher use of the area from the perspective of the public interest, or that the renewal will cause the lessee to be a tenant of any kind in leases covering an aggregate of more than 250 acres.

Decision

The Commissioner of Marine Resources grants the application of Maine Coast Nordic, Inc. to renew a 10-acre aquaculture lease located west of Cutler Peninsula, Cutler, Maine, for a period of ten years, to March 12, 2012. In the renewal of this lease, Maine Coast Nordic, Inc. is subject to the same terms, conditions, and obligations as set forth in the original lease.

Dated: _____

George D. Lapointe (Commissioner)
Department of Marine Resources